



MAY  
NO. 399

15c



Detective  Comics presents

# BATMAN and ROBIN



COMMISSIONER  
GORDON!

Actual Size 2"



Complete Set

ONLY \$1<sup>00</sup>

# GIANT PLAY ZOO ANIMAL COLLECTION

20 Lovable Animals to  
Delight the Heart  
of Every Child!

**BIG!  
COLORFUL!  
EXCITING!  
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Think of the fun and excitement that will pop into any child's eyes when he sees this wonderful collection of goofy, lovable animal zoo come tumbling out. And look what you get: A fat, frolicsome Hippo, a charming baby elephant, zebra, camel, foxes, a turtle... and much much more. All together 20 animals selected as children's favorites, and all with an extra touch: Wide, friendly eyes, laughing faces, marvelous authentic colors that make each of these lovable characters look as if they've just stepped from the pages of a wonderful storybook. Such a marvelous surprise you'll want to order several right away!

## OFFER WILL NOT BE REPEATED THIS SEASON

We urge you to order your Zoo Animal Collection now, while the supply lasts. Each collection includes 20 friendly zoo animals averaging approximately 2" in size. All are of rubbery washable plastic. Hurry Order Now, this offer will not be repeated this season in this magazine.

COLONIAL STUDIOS, DEPT. GZ-34  
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Please send me the Giant Collection of 20 Zoo Animals for just \$1.00 on full money back guarantee if I am not absolutely delighted. (Please add 25¢ postage and handling with each order.)

Enclosed is \$..... (Print Clearly)

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Address .....

City ..... State ..... Zip .....

☐ **SAVE! SPECIAL OFFER:** Order 3 collections for just \$2.50 (You save \$1.25). We pay postage. Extra sets make great gifts.



# BATMAN

THIS HAPPENED ONE MONTH AGO...

AT THE GOTHAM CITY POLICE ACADEMY--WHERE GENTLE CAPETS ARE TRANSFORMED INTO TOUGH LAW OFFICERS...

AS A SPECIAL PART OF YOUR TRAINING, MY TWO GUESTS WILL DEMONSTRATE UNARMED COMBAT--

BATMAN YOU ALREADY KNOW! THE OTHER FIGHTER IS KHAN-- MASTER OF KARATE, JUDO, AND KUNG FU!

ALL RIGHT-- BEGIN!

YOU ARE QUICK, BATMAN! BUT YOU WILL FIND ME THE SUPREME MASTER! I HAVE DEVOTED MY LIFE TO THIS ART!

I'VE DONE A BIT OF PRACTICING, TOO... NOW AND THEN!



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AH--! AGAIN YOU  
ELUDE MY  
THRUST!

KHAN...I'D LIKE TO  
REMINDE YOU THAT  
WE'RE ONLY  
SPARRING--



--GENTLY,  
SIR--  
GENTLY!

SOME  
"MASTER!"--  
BATMAN'S  
NOT EVEN  
WORKING  
UP A  
SWEAT!

HA!  
HA, HA!  
HA!



WITH A DEFT SNAP OF HIS WRIST, KHAN SLIPS  
A HEAVY STEEL-IDENTIFICATION BRACELET  
FROM UNDER HIS JACKET, AND SLIDES IT  
ONTO HIS FINGERS--



HE'S HUMILIATED  
ME--! MADE ME  
SEEM A  
CLOWN!



SO, BATMAN...  
WE BEGIN TO  
SEE WHO  
THE REAL  
ARTIST OF  
COMBAT IS!

UNNGH!



NOT ONLY DIDN'T HE  
TRY TO PULL THAT  
PUNCH--HE USED A  
KNUCKLE-DUSTER!

THAT LOOK OF  
PURE MURDER--!  
SUPPENLY, HE'S  
PLAYING FOR  
KEEPS!





HE'S EXPECTING SOMETHING  
FANCY... A JUDO THROW...  
SO I'LL SURPRISE HIM--

--WITH A  
COMMONPLACE  
HAYMAKER!

AURRRG!



DID YOU HAVE  
TO KAYO HIM--?  
HMM-- I GUESS  
YOU DID!

IF THERE'S A LESSON FOR YOUR POLICE  
CAPETS IN THIS, COMMISSIONER GORDON--  
IT'S SIMPLY THAT OCCASIONALLY CRUDE  
METHODS WORK BEST!

IT BEGINS THERE AND THEN...A  
TWISTED TALE OF TREACHERY  
THAT CAN NOT END UNTIL...

# DEATH COMES TO A SMALL, LOCKED ROOM!

STORY:  
DENNY  
O'NEIL

ART:  
BOB BROWN &  
JOE GIELLA



BUT THIS EPISODE  
ISN'T QUITE  
FINISHED...

THE MAN WAS TRYING  
TO HARM ME, MISTER!

CRUDE IS RIGHT,  
BATMAN! I'VE  
NEVER SEEN SUCH A  
DISGRACEFUL  
EXHIBITION!

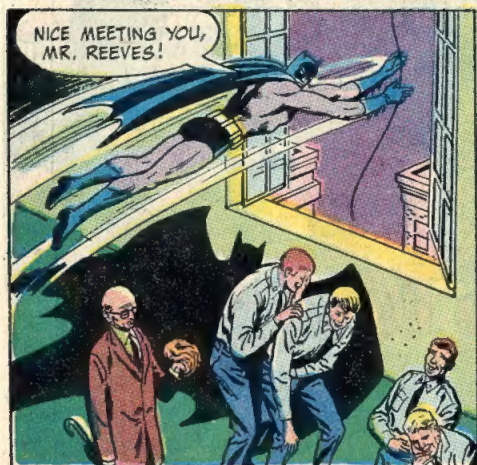
BATMAN, MEET  
ARTHUR REEVES--  
THE MAYOR'S NEW  
PUBLIC WORKS  
COORDINATOR!



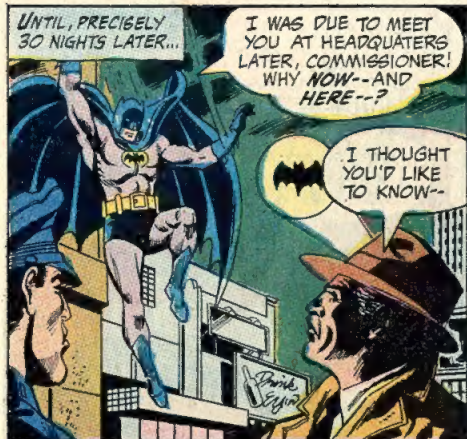
NEVER MIND WHO I AM!  
THE QUESTION IS...WHO'S  
HE? WHY DOES HE FIND  
IT NECESSARY TO  
COWER BEHIND  
THAT MASK?

NO PERSON WHO  
PRETENDS TO SERVE  
THE PUBLIC HAS  
ANY REASON TO  
STAY HIDDEN!

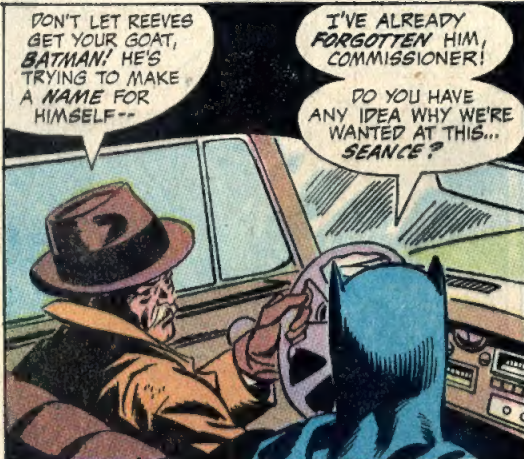












DON'T LET REEVES  
GET YOUR GOAT,  
BATMAN! HE'S  
TRYING TO MAKE  
A NAME FOR  
HIMSELF--

I'VE ALREADY  
FORGOTTEN HIM,  
COMMISSIONER!

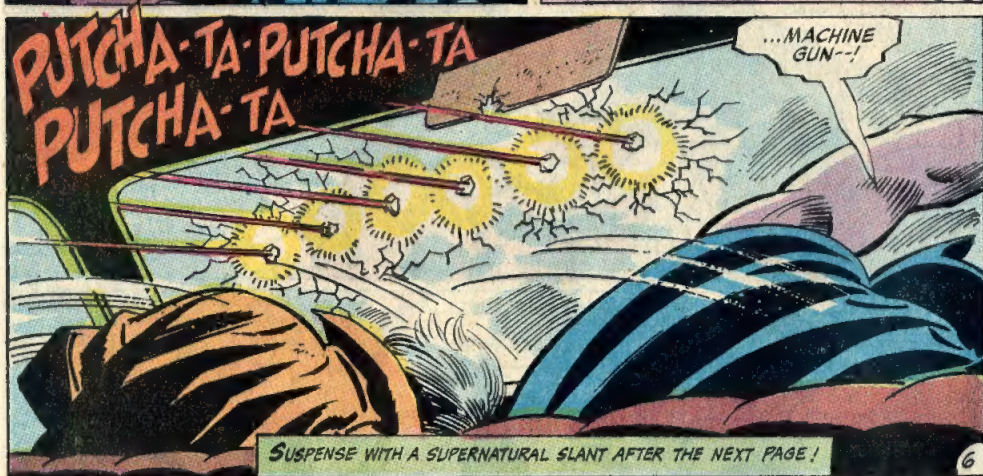
DO YOU HAVE  
ANY IDEA WHY WE'RE  
WANTED AT THIS...  
SEANCE?



NONE AT ALL! THE  
INVITE FOR US BOTH  
CAME TO HEAD-  
QUARTERS, ALONG  
WITH A NOTE...

...ABOUT SOLVING  
A CRIME IF  
WE SHOW...

COMMISSIONER--  
THE MAN  
BEHIND THE  
SHACK! HE'S  
GOT A...



PUTCHA-TA-PUTCHA-TA  
PUTCHA-TA

...MACHINE  
GUN--!

SUSPENSE WITH A SUPERNATURAL SLANT AFTER THE NEXT PAGE!

6

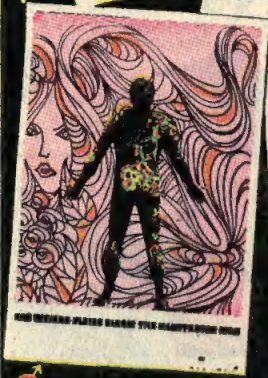
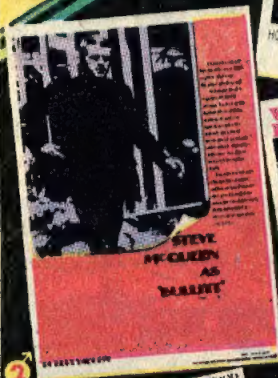
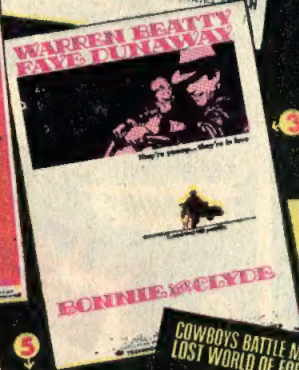
read...  
D.C.'s BEST



ON  
SALE  
MARCH  
26th



**NOW!**



**AVAILABLE  
FOR THE  
FIRST  
TIME!**

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FOR SOME OF THE  
GREATEST-  
AND WILDEST-  
FILMS EVER!**

**\$1.50 EACH**

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P.O. BOX 141  
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11202

Gentlemen:  
Rush the Movie Posters that I have checked.  
1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐  
I am enclosing \$1.50 for each poster selected.  
(Check or Money order, please—no cash.) total \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

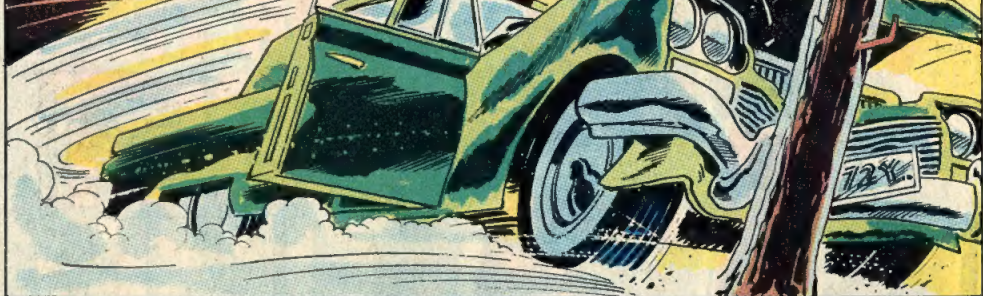
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Allow 3 weeks for delivery



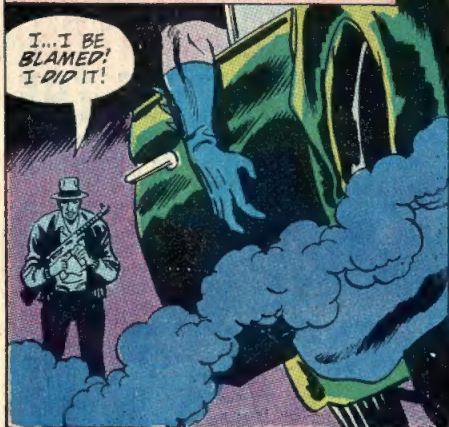
FOR LONG SECONDS, THE  
BULLET-RIDDLLED SEDAN  
CAREENS THROUGH THE  
PARKING LOT! THEN--

**KWAK**

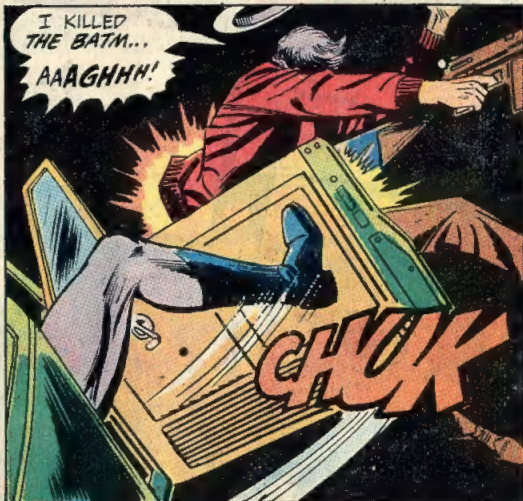


A HEAVY SILENCE FOLLOWS THE CRASH, A  
BROODING QUIET BROKEN ONLY BY THE  
SHUFFLING OF FEET ON DIRTY ASPHALT!

I... I BE  
BLAMED!  
I DID IT!



I KILLED  
THE BATM...  
AAAGHHH!



**CHOK**

**TUK**



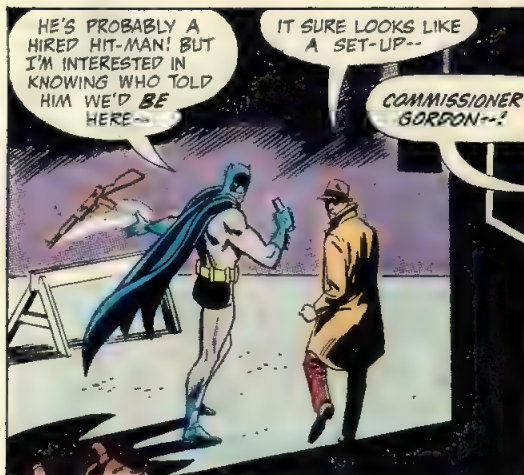
HARLUMPH!  
I'M BEGINNING  
TO BELIEVE LIKE  
THE SUPERSTITIOUS  
HOODS... YOU'RE  
INDESTRUCTIBLE!

MERELY A MATTER  
OF KEEPING ALERT  
FOR DANGER--AND  
DUCKING AT THE  
PROPER TIME!

BETTER HAVE A  
COUPLE OF YOUR  
BOYS PICK UP  
SLEEPING BEAUTY--  
WE'LL QUESTION  
HIM LATER!



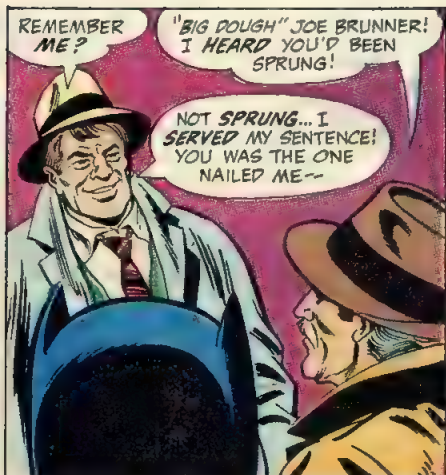




HE'S PROBABLY A HIRED HIT-MAN! BUT I'M INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHO TOLD HIM WE'D BE HERE--

IT SURE LOOKS LIKE A SET-UP--

COMMISSIONER GORDON--!



REMEMBER ME?

"BIG DOUGH" JOE BRUNNER! I HEARD YOU'D BEEN SPRUNG!

NOT SPRUNG... I SERVED MY SENTENCE! YOU WAS THE ONE NAILED ME--



--AN' I WANT YOU TO KNOW I'M GRATEFUL! I USED MY TIME IN STIR-- LEARNED TV REPAIR...

GLAD TO HEAR YOU'RE DOING SO WELL, JOE!

GOT MY OWN SHOP NOW AN' IT'S A GOOD LIFE--HECK OF A LOT BETTER THAN RUNNIN' AN' HIDIN'--!



SO LONG, COMMISSIONER! AN' TAKE CARE!

MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE HIM PUT IN CUSTODY, BATMAN--?

NOT YET! IF HE HIRED THE GUNSEL, WE KNOW WHERE TO FIND HIM!



A FEW MINUTES LATER...

GOOD EF'N'ING, CHENTLEMENS! I AM GREAT DILBERT-- MEDIUM EXTRAORDINARY! TONIGHT VE ZUMMON SPIRITS OF DEAD!

VIBRATIONS INFORM ME THAT DEAD HAFF SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR ONE OF YOU INVITED CHENTLEMENS!



# here's a fabulous collection of **ORIGINS**

**HOW SUPERBOY  
FOUND KRYPTO!**

**THE DISCOVERY  
OF KRYPTONITE!**

**THE FIRST  
PHANTOM ZONE  
STORY!**

**THE START OF THE  
Lana Lang-Lois Lane  
FEUD!**

**plus  
ONE FATAL  
ENDING!**

**THE DEATH  
OF MA AND  
PA KENT!**



**GIANT**

25c

JUNE  
NO. 166



## SUPERBOY

FEATURING...

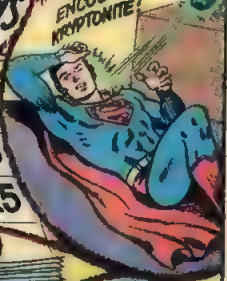
### SUPERBOY'S RED-LETTER DAYS

1	2	3	4		
6	7	8	9	10	11
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30
					31

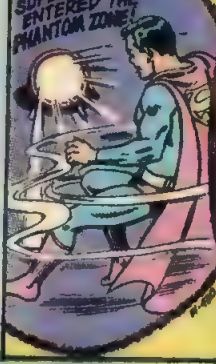
**THE HAPPY DAY  
KRYPTO REACHED  
EARTH!**



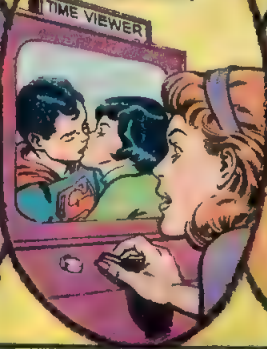
**THE DAY OF DANGER  
THE SUPERBOY FIRST  
ENCOUNTERED  
KRYPTONITE!**



**THE  
AMAZING DAY  
SUPERBOY FIRST  
ENTERED THE  
PHANTOM ZONE!**



**THE  
FATEFUL DAY  
THE LANA LANG-LOIS LANE  
FEUD BEGAN!**



**THE  
TRAGIC DAY  
MA AND PA KENT  
DIED!**



ON SALE MARCH 5th

AND A **SPECIAL ALL-KRYPTONITE** ISSUE OF  
**GIANT SUPERMAN!**

ON SALE APRIL 14



HOUSE LIGHTS DIM...  
THE CRYSTAL BALL  
GLOWS EERILY--

IS DILBERT  
HERE! YOU HEAR,  
SPIRITS?

WE ARE  
PRESENT...

I AM  
PRESENT!--

AND THE BATMAN  
IS PRESENT... IT IS FOR  
HIS EARS THAT  
I SPEAK!

THAT VOICE! IT  
SOUNDS LIKE...  
KHAN'S!

SHHH...  
LET'S  
LISTEN!

IN LIFE YOU HUMILIATED ME,  
BATMAN! IN DEATH I SHALL  
HUMILIATE YOU-- BY KILLING  
COMMISSIONER GORDON AT  
MIDNIGHT TOMORROW! YOU  
ARE HELPLESS TO PREVENT IT--

HEY--! SOMEBODY  
TURN ON THE  
LIGHTS!

DILBERT HAD  
HIS ESCAPE ALL  
PREPARED!

BLAST! I WANTED  
TO QUESTION  
THAT FAKER!

I'VE BEEN AN  
OFFICER  
FOR FORTY  
YEARS... IT'D  
TAKE MORE  
THAN A  
SPOOK TO  
SCARE ME!

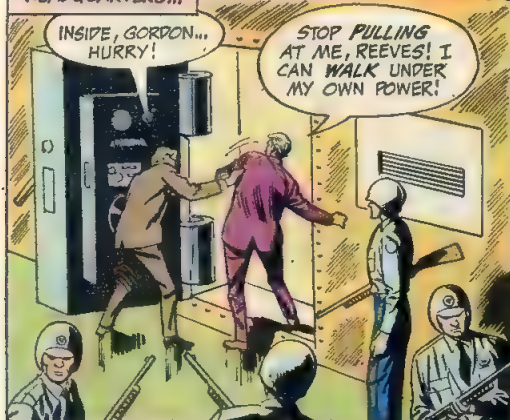
ESPECIALLY A PHONEY THREAT--!  
DILBERT WAS A VENTRILOQUIST--  
HE WORE A HIGH COLLAR TO  
HIDE THE MOVEMENT OF  
HIS THROAT MUSCLES!

STILL... YOU'D BETTER  
PLAY IT CAREFUL, UNTIL  
WE FIND OUT WHO'S  
BEHIND THIS CHARADE!

I DON'T BLAME  
YOU, COMMISSIONER...  
AFTER THAT THREAT!



AND SO THE STAGE IS SET... 24 HOURS LATER, AT THE SPECIAL EVIDENCE VAULT FAR BELOW GOTHAM POLICE HEADQUARTERS...



I'M TAKING NO CHANCES! NOBODY WILL HARM YOU WHILE I'M ON THE JOB!

NOBODY'D HARM ME ANYHOW! I TELL YOU, THAT THREAT WAS A BLUFF!



WALLS OF STEEL, FIVE FEET THICK... AN AIR SUPPLY WHICH I'VE PERSONALLY INSPECTED... AND A SQUAD OF RIOT OFFICERS!

NOTHING HUMAN OR OTHERWISE CAN POSSIBLY REACH YOU!

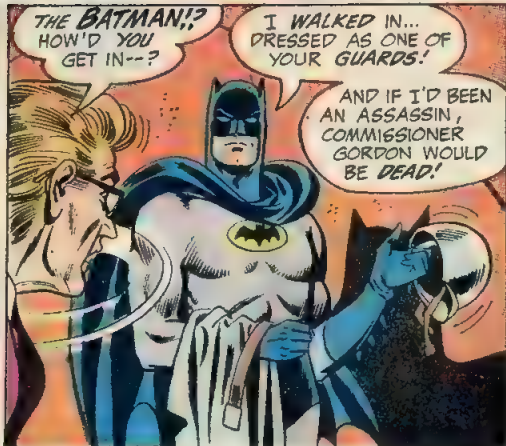
CARE TO BET, MR. REEVES?!



THE BATMAN!? HOW'D YOU GET IN--?

I WALKED IN... DRESSED AS ONE OF YOUR GUARDS!

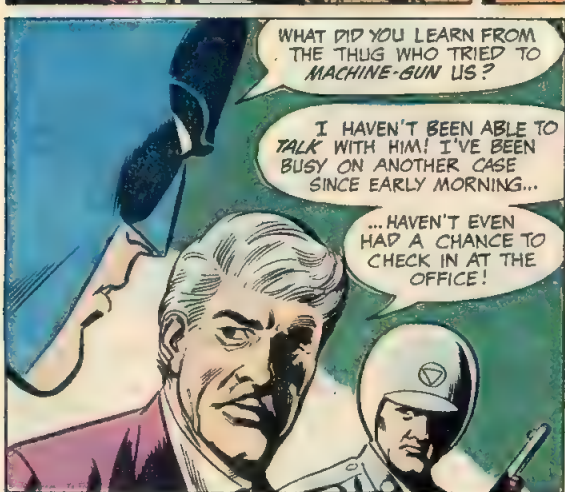
AND IF I'D BEEN AN ASSASSIN, COMMISSIONER GORDON WOULD BE DEAD!



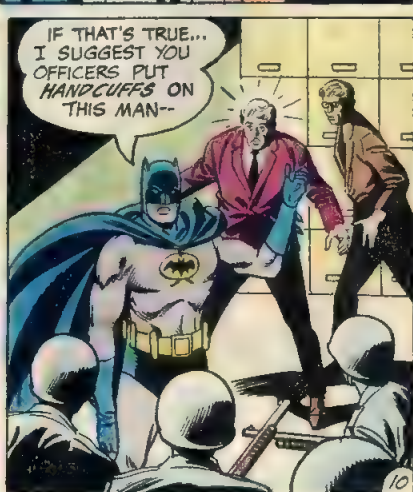
WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE THUG WHO TRIED TO MACHINE-GUN US?

I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO TALK WITH HIM! I'VE BEEN BUSY ON ANOTHER CASE SINCE EARLY MORNING...

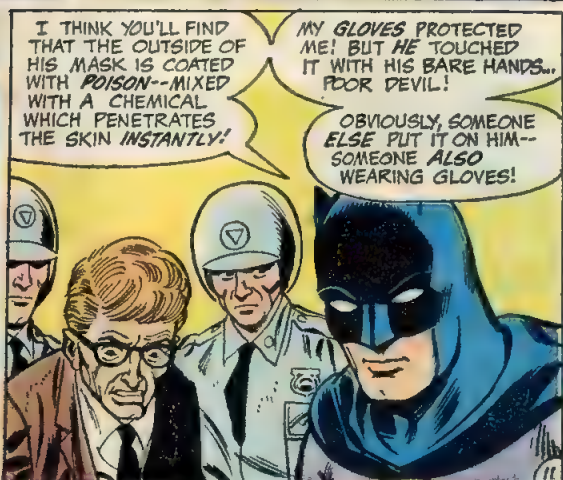
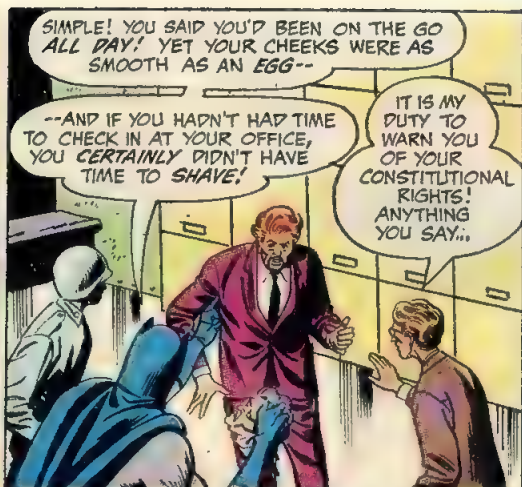
...HAVEN'T EVEN HAD A CHANCE TO CHECK IN AT THE OFFICE!



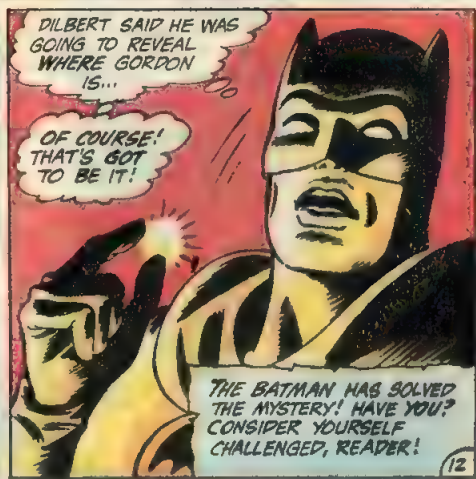
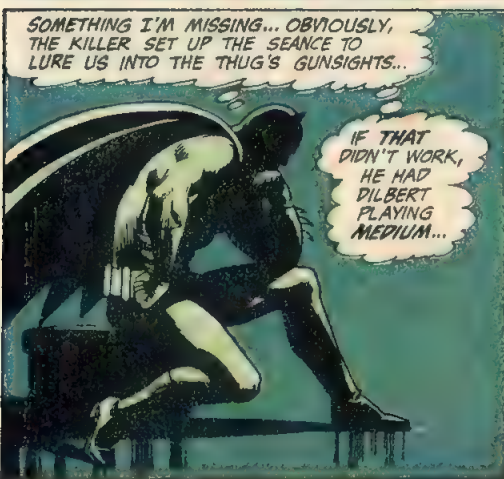
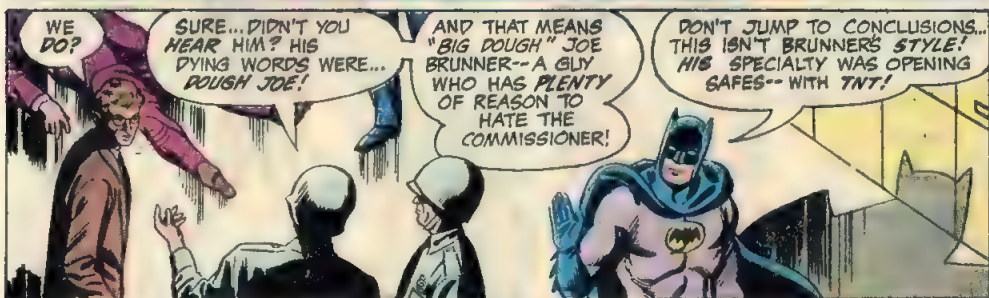
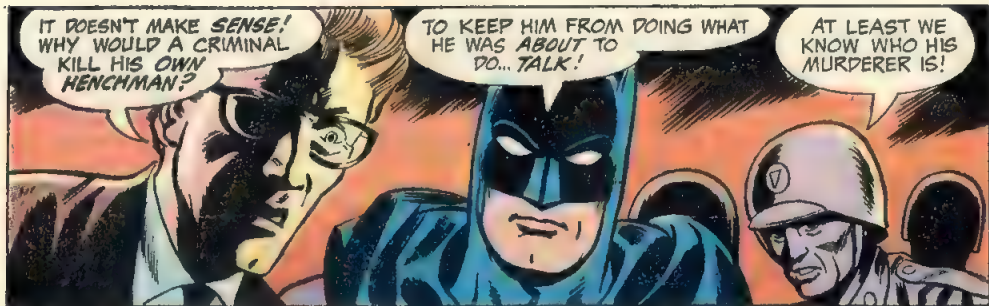
IF THAT'S TRUE... I SUGGEST YOUR OFFICERS PUT HANDCUFFS ON THIS MAN--











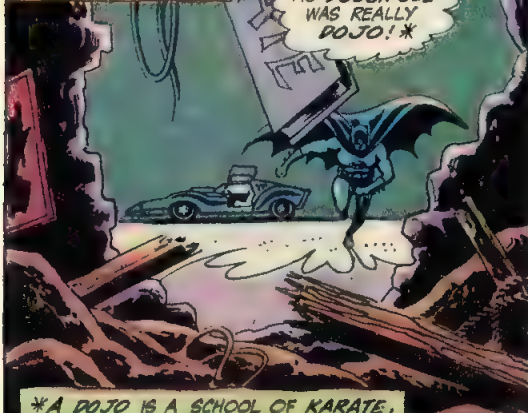


MOMENTS  
LATER, A  
SLEEK  
SPORTS CAR  
RACES  
THROUGH  
THE  
WHISPERING  
STREETS OF  
A SLEEPING  
GOTHAM--



--AND PRECISELY AT  
FIVE MINUTES TO  
MIDNIGHT, SCREECHES  
TO A HALT IN FRONT  
OF A CHARRED  
HULK OF A BUILDING...

DILBERT'S LAST  
WORDS... WHAT  
REEVES AND THE  
OTHERS HEARD  
AS DOUGH JOE  
WAS REALLY  
DOJO! \*



\*A DOJO IS A SCHOOL OF KARATE,  
JUDO, AND RELATED MARTIAL ARTS!  
PRONOUNCED, OF COURSE, DOUGH JOE!

FRESH CONCRETE--!  
AND THERE'S NO  
REASON FOR IT THAT  
I CAN SEE!...  
UNLESS--

THERE'S  
GOT TO BE  
AN OPENING...  
YES! HERE  
IT IS--!



SOMEWHERE IN  
THESE BURNED  
TIMBERS IS A  
HIDING PLACE!  
BUT WHERE--?

IF THE KILLER  
PLANS TO KILL  
GORDON AT  
MIDNIGHT, I'VE  
ONLY THREE  
MINUTES LEFT  
TO FIND IT!



THIS WOULD BE WHERE  
THE CLASSES WERE TAUGHT!  
AN OPEN AREA... AND A  
CONCRETE SLAB!

AND A DOZEN  
YARDS BELOW...



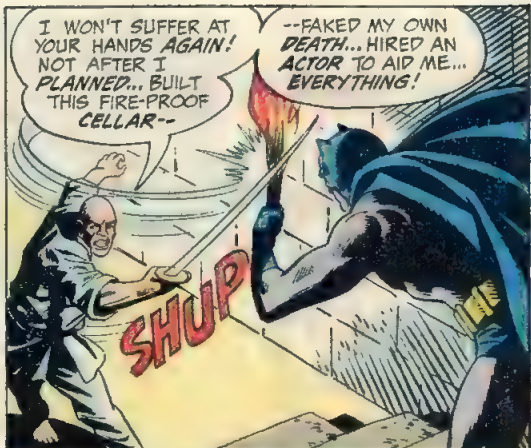
--AND BY DESTROYING  
YOU, LET THE BATMAN  
KNOW THE BITTER  
TASTE OF DEFEAT!

YOU HAVE JUST  
SIXTY SECONDS,  
GORDON... A SINGLE  
MINUTE BEFORE  
I MAKE GOOD  
MY PROMISE--

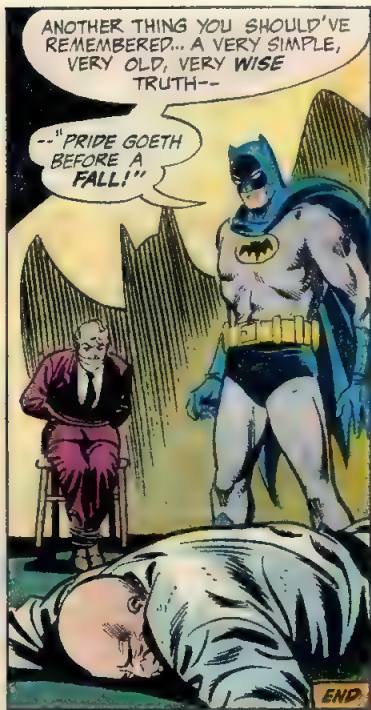


PUT  
DOWN  
THAT  
SWORD~  
OR  
USE  
IT...

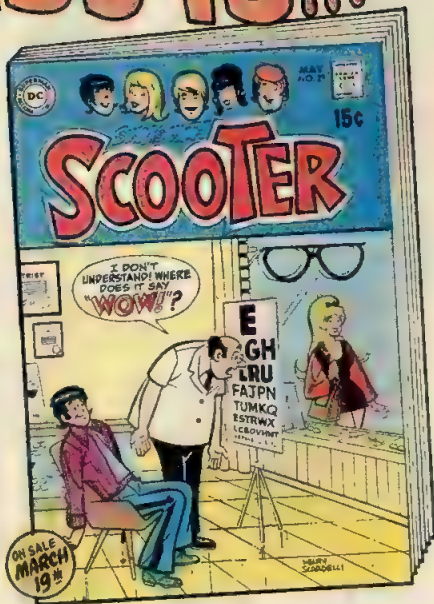








# HAPPINESS IS...



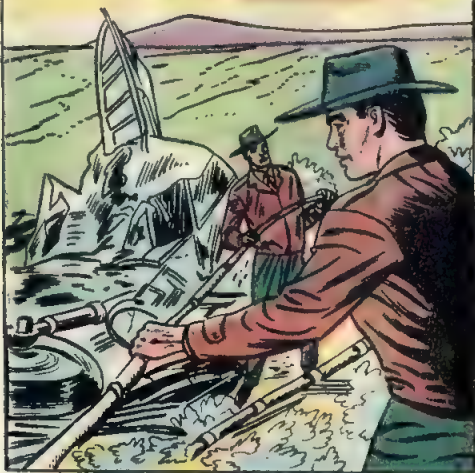


# WET CHEMISTRY...

WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF "WET CHEMISTRY" (THE USE OF LIQUID CHEMICALS TO DETERMINE THE COMPOSITION OF A GIVEN SUBSTANCE BY THE WAY IT REACTS TO OR IS TRANSFORMED BY OTHER CHEMICALS), EVIDENCE UNCOVERED AT THE SCENE OF A CRIME, WHICH FORMERLY WAS OF NO HELP IN SOLVING A CASE, IS NOW USED TO TRACK DOWN THE GUILTY OR EXONERATE THE INNOCENT...

"WET CHEMISTRY" DETERMINED THAT THE CAUSE OF A NATIONAL AIRLINES PLANE BLOWING UP OVER NORTH CAROLINA IN 1960 WAS THE EXPLOSION OF A HOME-MADE BOMB MADE OF MANGANESE DIOXIDE...

SIFTING WRECKAGE IN THE  
NATIONAL AIRLINES  
DISASTER.



CHIPS OF GLASS CLINGING TO THE JACKET OF A MAN MURDERED IN CALIFORNIA WAS TRACED TO A BROKEN LENS OF SPECTACLES WORN BY THE KILLER.

THAT'S THE MAN WHO  
BROUGHT IN A PAIR OF  
GLASSES TO BE FIXED!

YOU'RE UNDER  
ARREST FOR  
MURDER!



BITS OF ROOF-TAR AND GRAVEL FOUND AT THE SCENE OF A BURGLARIZED SUPER-MARKET IN SAN FRANCISCO MATCHED THOSE FOUND ON A PAIR OF SUSPECTS PICKED UP THE FOLLOWING DAY...

YOU'RE CARRYING THE EVIDENCE ON  
YOU THAT'LL SEND YOU TO JAIL!



OTHER STRANGE CLUES USED BY "WET CHEMISTRY" TO TRACK DOWN CRIMINALS HAVE BEEN WAX IN A MAN'S EAR AND A GRAIN OF SUGAR IN A GAS TANK...





# ROBIN

-THE TEEN WONDER-

## PANIC BY MOONGLOW

STORY:  
FRANK  
ROBBINS

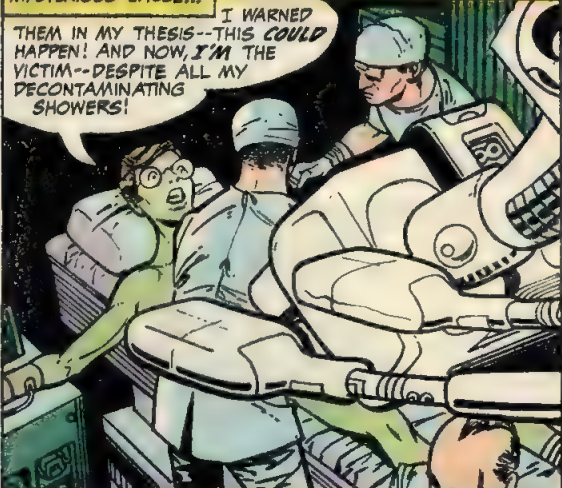
ART:  
GIL KANE &  
VINCE COLLETTA

A MOON ROCK DONATED BY NASA TO HUDSON U SUDDENLY EMITS UNEARTHLY RAYS...TURNING A BRILLIANTLY PROPHETIC UNDERGRADUATE, HERB STROUD, A VIVID GREEN...



AND PLUNGES THE CAMPUS INTO NEAR PANIC AS ALARMED NASA SCIENTISTS QUARANTINE ALL AND PROBE FOR THE MYSTERIOUS CAUSE...

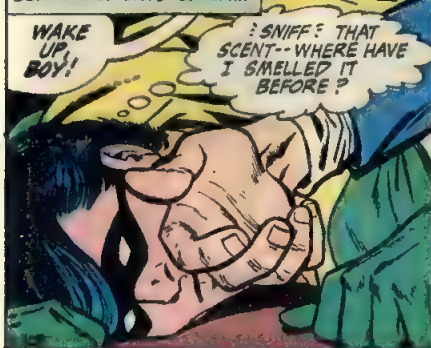
I WARNED THEM IN MY THESIS--THIS COULD HAPPEN! AND NOW, I'M THE VICTIM--DESPITE ALL MY DECONTAMINATING SHOWERS!



SHOWERS THAT MAKE FRESH-MAN DICK GRAYSON SUSPECT A HOAX! FOLLOWING HIS HUNCH AS ROBIN...



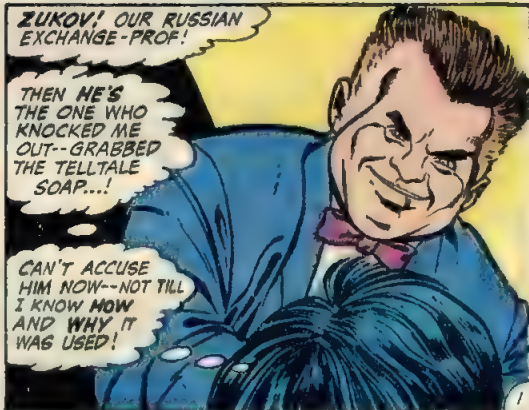
FRIGHTENED OFF BY APPROACHING FOOTSTEPS, HIS ASSAILANT FLEES WITH THE SUSPECT-SOAP! MOMENTS LATER...



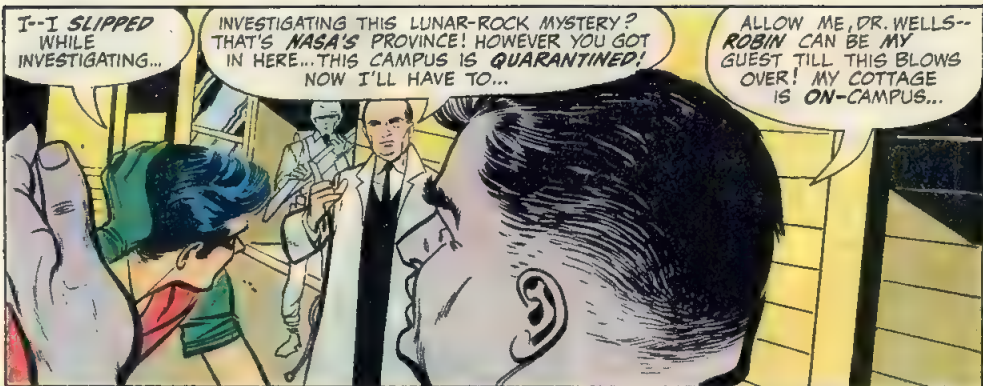
ZUKOV! OUR RUSSIAN EXCHANGE-PROF!

THEN HE'S THE ONE WHO KNOCKED ME OUT--GRABBED THE TELLTALE SOAP...!

CAN'T ACCUSE HIM NOW--NOT TILL I KNOW HOW AND WHY IT WAS USED!



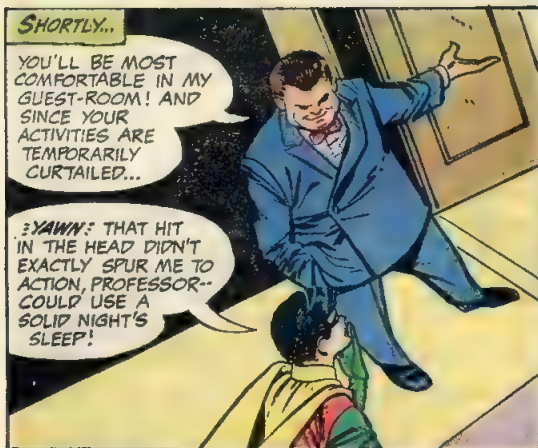




I-I SLIPPED  
WHILE  
INVESTIGATING...

INVESTIGATING THIS LUNAR-ROCK MYSTERY?  
THAT'S NASA'S PROVINCE! HOWEVER YOU GOT  
IN HERE...THIS CAMPUS IS **QUARANTINED!**  
NOW I'LL HAVE TO...

ALLOW ME, DR. WELLS--  
**ROBIN** CAN BE MY  
GUEST TILL THIS BLOWS  
OVER! MY COTTAGE  
IS **ON-CAMPUS...**



**SHORTLY...**

YOU'LL BE MOST  
COMFORTABLE IN MY  
GUEST-ROOM! AND  
SINCE YOUR  
ACTIVITIES ARE  
TEMPORARILY  
CURTAILED...

YAWN: THAT HIT  
IN THE HEAD DIDN'T  
EXACTLY SPUR ME TO  
ACTION, PROFESSOR--  
COULD USE A  
SOLID NIGHT'S  
SLEEP!



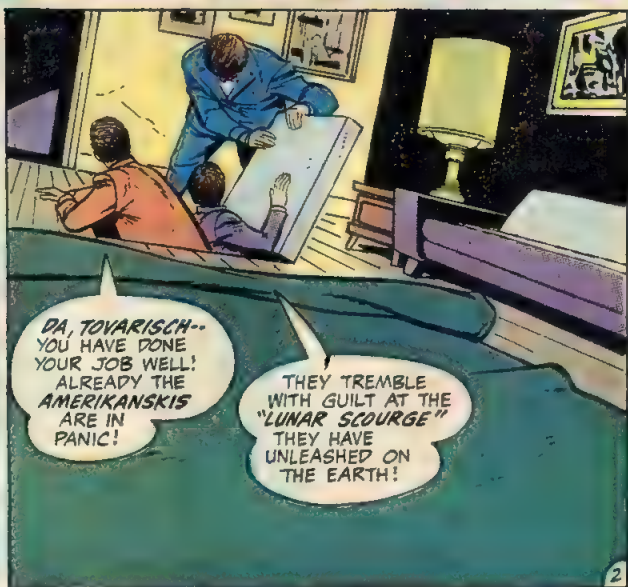
**FAKING SLEEP, ROBIN WAITS...AND THEN...**

HOPE DR. WELLS WON'T  
MISS HIS **STETHOSCOPE**  
FOR AWHILE!



YOU CAN  
COME UP NOW,  
COMRADES!  
WE HAVE  
WORK TO  
DO!

THAT'S  
ZUKOV  
TALKING...



DA, TOVARISCH--  
YOU HAVE DONE  
YOUR JOB WELL!  
ALREADY THE  
**AMERIKANSKIS**  
ARE IN  
PANIC!

THEY TREMBLE  
WITH GUILT AT THE  
"LUNAR SCOURGE"  
THEY HAVE  
UNLEASHED ON  
THE EARTH!



DA! WHEN THEY ARE  
UNABLE TO ANALYZE  
OUR SECRET FORMULA,  
WHICH TURNED  
**STROUD'S SKIN**  
GREEN...

WITH THE AID  
OF THIS SOAP I  
SUBSTITUTED FOR  
HIS--THEY WILL  
HAVE TO CONFESS  
THEIR RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR HIS **DEATH**... IN  
**TWO DAYS' TIME!**

WHEN WE PUBLICIZE THE  
"IRRESPONSIBILITY OF THE U.S.  
SPACE-PROGRAM IN POLLUTING  
OUR GLORIOUS PLANET..."

...THEY WILL BE FORCED  
BY PUBLIC OUTCRY TO  
**CURTAIN** THEIR ACTIVITIES--  
WHILE **WE FORGE AHEAD**  
**TRIUMPHANT**  
IN SPACE!

SO THAT'S THEIR PLOT! THEY'RE  
SO RILED BY OUR FIRST-MEN-ON-  
THE-MOON ACHIEVEMENT THAT  
THEY INTEND TO **WRECK NASA!**

BUT ALL OUR PLANS  
CAN GO UP IN LUNAR  
DUST, COMRADES...

IF THAT CLEVER  
YOUNG CRIME-  
CRUSADER, **ROBIN**,  
SLEEPING IN  
THERE--LIVES TO  
EXPOSE US!

THAT IS QUICKLY  
REMEDIED,  
**TOVARISCH!**

**GONE?!**

BUT--HOW  
WAS HE  
WARNED?

THERE IS YOUR ANSWER,  
**TOVARISCH ZUKOV!**  
CLEVER INDEED...!

WE MUST FIND  
HIM BEFORE HE  
EXPOSES US!



WHILE RACING THROUGH THE SLEEPING CAMPUS...

COULD'VE TACKLED THEM--BUT THE RISK, IF I'D FAILED--THIS DREAD SECRET WOULD'VE DIED WITH ME!

WHO GOES THERE? HALT--OR I FIRE!

THE SENTRY DIDN'T EVEN GIVE ME TIME TO YELL--FRIEND!

THE WHOLE PLACE IS AN ARMED CAMP--WITH ITCHY FINGERS! GOT TO FIND ANOTHER WAY INTO SCIENCE-HALL!

LAST PLACE THEY'D EXPECT ANYONE TO ENTER! THROUGH THE BUILDING'S CUPOLA!

BUT SOME HAVE THOUGHT TO LOOK UP...

ROBIN! HE'S TRYING TO GET THAT LUNAR-ROCK SAMPLE AS EVIDENCE AGAINST US!

I KNOW AN UNDERGROUND FACULTY-ENTRANCE--IT MAY NOT BE GUARDED!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.



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ANY  
ENEMY**

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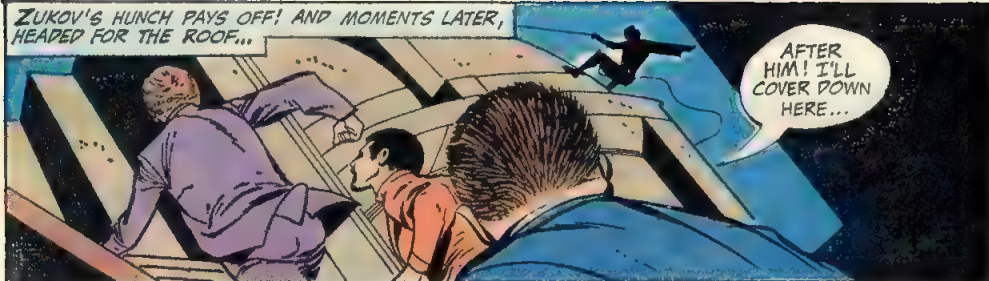
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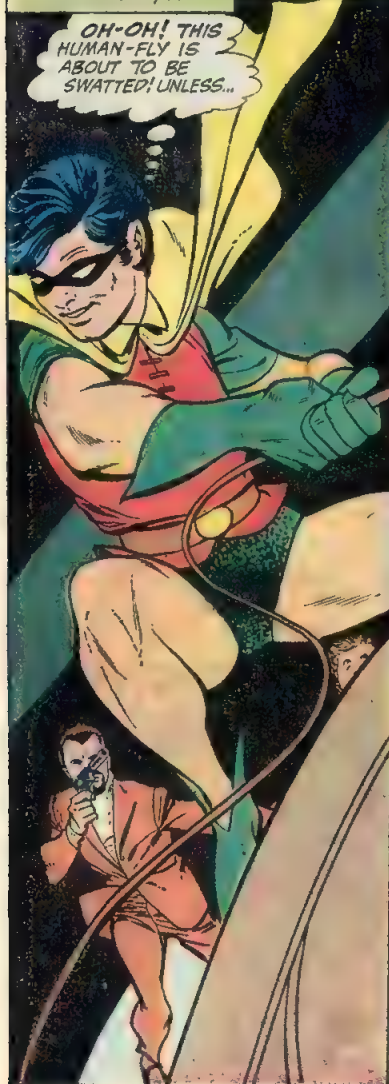


ZUKOV'S HUNCH PAYS OFF! AND MOMENTS LATER,  
HEADED FOR THE ROOF...



ROBIN'S KEEN HEARING DETECTS THE  
SLIGHT CLICK OF A SILENCED-GUN  
BEING COCKED, AND...

OH-OH! THIS  
HUMAN-FLY IS  
ABOUT TO BE  
SWATTED! UNLESS...



DECIDING  
THAT THE  
BEST DEFENSE  
IS AN OFFENSE,  
THE TEEN  
WONDER  
LOOSENS  
HIS HANDS  
ON THE ROPE  
AND SLIDES  
DOWN TO--



NOTHING TRIGGERS ME OFF  
MORE THAN A GUN  
AIMED AT ME!





THEN--SPYING THE SECOND  
GUNMAN...

I'LL MEET  
YOU HALF-WAY,  
PAL--BUT THAT'S  
THE ONLY  
COMPROMISE  
I'LL MAKE!

GOT TO GET INSIDE  
FAST BEFORE HE TRIES  
FOR A RETURN  
ENGAGEMENT!

QUICKLY OPENING  
THE WINDOW, ROBIN  
REVERSES HIS BAT-  
HOOK AND LETS THE  
ROPE DOWN INSIDE  
THE DARK SCIENCE-  
HALL...

BETTER  
WATCH THIS  
GLASS IS  
GOING OVER...

BWEEEEEE

BUT A SUDDEN  
SILENCED SHOT  
UPSETS HIS  
EQUILIBRIUM,  
AND--

--ROBIN  
CRASHES  
THROUGH,  
UNABLE TO  
CHECK  
HIMSELF...

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.



For  
MILE  
A  
MINUTE  
Teen-Age  
Thrills...  
read

ON  
SALE  
MAR. 10<sup>th</sup>



ON  
SALE  
MAR. 17<sup>th</sup>



ADMIT ONE (1) TO  
PALISADES  
AMUSEMENT PARK

ADMISSION **FREE** PARKING

GOOD MONDAY,  
WEDNESDAY  
AND FRIDAYS

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AMUSEMENT **PARK N.J.**

1/2 MILE SOUTH OF THE  
GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE



COMICS IN  
MAY THROUGH  
OCTOBER HAVE  
THE **FREE COUPON!**

Free Ride  
**CAROUSEL**

Free Ride  
**WHIP**



SUDDENLY HIS PRECIPITATE DROP IS HALTED...PAINFULLY! AS HE STRUGGLES DESPERATELY TO KEEP FROM BEING STRANGLERD...

URTCH-H!  
MY--CAPE!  
HOOKED--ON--  
WINDOW! SAVED--  
BUT FOR WHAT?



HIS UNSPOKEN QUESTION IS QUICKLY ANSWERED, AS...

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SIMPLER IF  
YOU HAD KILLED YOURSELF, ROBIN...  
NOW, I MUST DO IT FOR YOU!



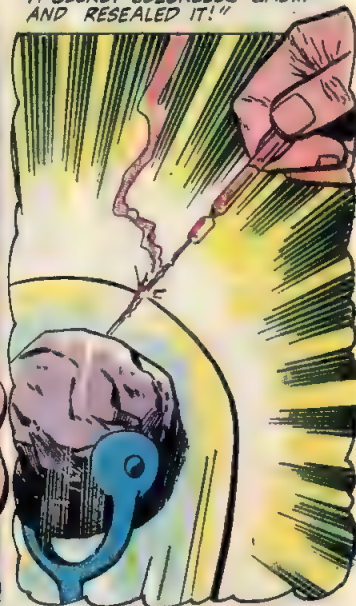
G-GUGH--  
ZUKOV!

NATURALLY, BEFORE  
YOU DIE-- YOU WANT  
TO KNOW *HOW* I  
GAVE THE MOON ROCK  
ITS ARTIFICIAL  
RADIANCE?

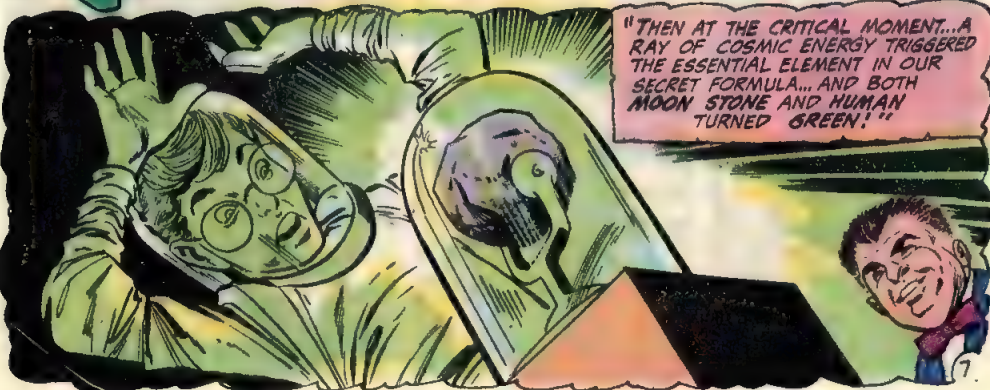
WITH  
THE AID OF THIS  
PENCIL  
LASER-  
GUN...

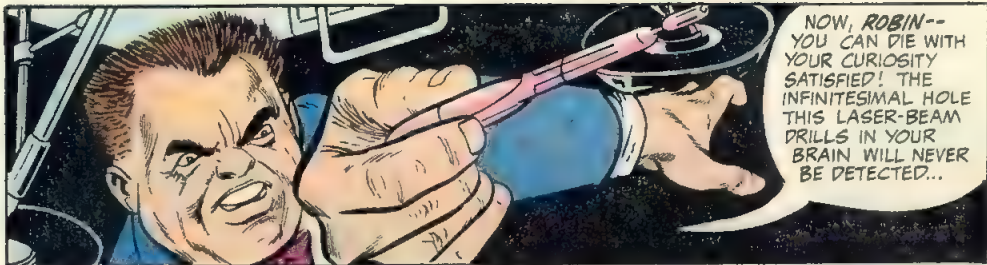


"...I BURNED A HOLE, HALF-  
THICKNESS OF A HUMAN HAIR,  
THROUGH THE DOME...INJECTED  
A SECRET COLORLESS GAS...  
AND REVEALED IT!"



"THEN AT THE CRITICAL MOMENT...A  
RAY OF COSMIC ENERGY TRIGGERED  
THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN OUR  
SECRET FORMULA... AND BOTH  
MOON STONE AND HUMAN  
TURNED GREEN!"



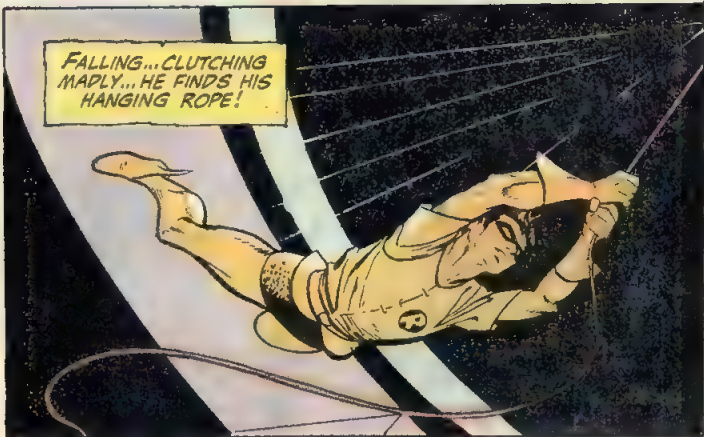


NOW, ROBIN--  
YOU CAN DIE WITH  
YOUR CURIOSITY  
SATISFIED! THE  
INFINITESIMAL HOLE  
THIS LASER-BEAM  
DRILLS IN YOUR  
BRAIN WILL NEVER  
BE DETECTED...

AS ZUKOV FIRES, ROBIN  
FRANTICALLY RIPS OPEN  
HIS CAPE-CLASP...AND  
DROPS...



FALLING...CLUTCHING  
MADLY...HE FINDS HIS  
HANGING ROPE!



MASKED BY DARKNESS,  
ROBIN SLIDES DOWN IN  
A GLOVE-BURNING  
LANDING...

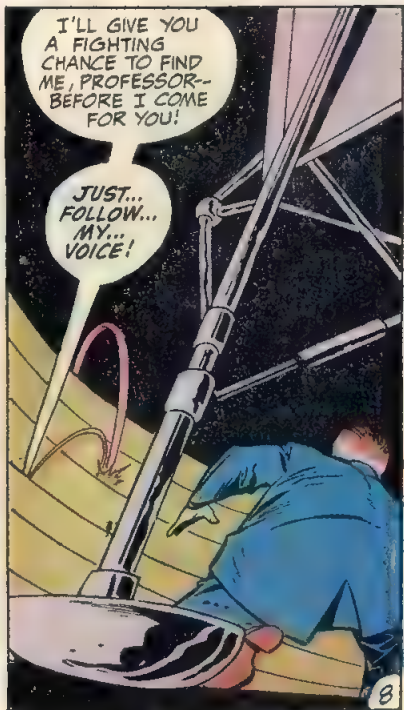
ROBIN?  
YOU-- STILL  
ALIVE?

NO  
THANKS  
TO YOU,  
ZUKOV!



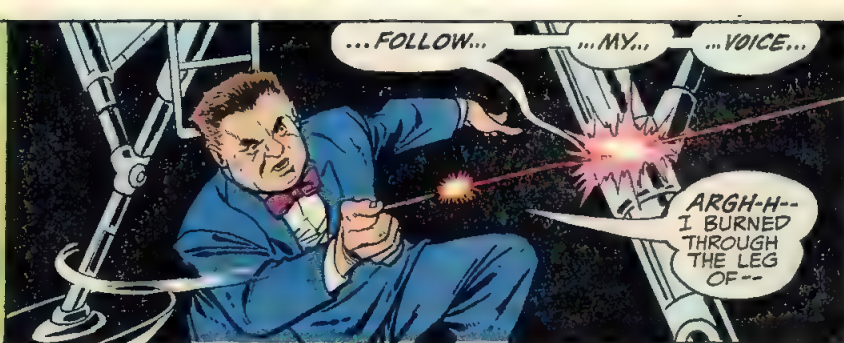
I'LL GIVE YOU  
A FIGHTING  
CHANCE TO FIND  
ME, PROFESSOR--  
BEFORE I COME  
FOR YOU!

JUST...  
FOLLOW...  
MY...  
VOICE!





AS THE  
PANICKY  
PROFESSOR  
TRAVERSES  
HIS LASER-  
BEAM,  
TRACKING  
ROBIN'S  
MOVING,  
TAUNTING  
VOICE...



THE NEXT DAY, FOLLOWING ROBIN'S REVELATION OF ZUKOV'S GIGANTIC MOON-HOAX, NASA OFFICIALS FIND A SECRET "BLACK BOOK" IN HIS QUARTERS...

LUCKY OUR DECODING EXPERTS COULD CRACK IT IN TIME AND DISCOVER THE ANTIDOTE TO THEIR "LUNAR PLAGUE"! YOU'RE GOING TO BE A-OKAY NOW, STROUD!

A DEADLY NERVE-VIRUS FROM THEIR SECRET ARSENAL! WE CAN WRITE THAT OFF AS A THREAT NOW...

AND I'M FINISHED WITH "EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL" PROPHECIES, DICK! THIS ONE ALMOST KILLED ME!



THE  
END

NEXT MONTH--  
THE **400**<sup>TH</sup>  
ISSUE OF  
DETECTIVE  
COMICS...

ROBIN AND  
BATGIRL IN  
THEIR FIRST  
TEAM-UP  
ADVENTURE!



# BATMAN'S HOT LINE



S-426

Dear Editor:

Well, the man of *La Mancha* would sure be proud of you! With *Detective* #395 you have finally reached the "Impossible Dream"! There is no limit to the amount of praise that I can unload on you; Denny O'Neil and Neal Adams. Everything and everyone must change or die. We find the roots of all change in the past. And this was the fate of *The Batman*. In a day where everything has a hidden meaning, *Batman* didn't make it. Only through radical change with a large foundation in the past did *The Batman* survive.

As for the objectives, the O'Neil plot was a milestone in the comics magazine field. With his writing prowess he has changed *Batman* comics to *The Batman* graphic story. Major advancement! Also, changing the setting was a breath of fresh air. In addition to the setting, there are two major reasons "The Secret of the Waiting Graves" will be a milestone in *Batman* history.

First was the use of the supernatural. Now the *Man of the Bat* has gone full circle. A decade ago he was fighting off cheap *BEM's* to suit the so-called science-fiction fans. Now he is confronted with a more illusive foe—the *unknown*. This suits him because it fits his very concept and the fact that in the comics, horror stories come off with more class.

Second, and most important, was Denny's lack of over-explaining dialogue. We never really find out how *The Batman* was at the right place at the right time. Also, he knows when to let Neal Adams take over. More power to ya!

Speaking of Neal, *mon amis*, there is no other artist who can project such a macabre mood as the latter. Don't worry. Dick Giordano—I'm not forgetting you either. This story was easily your best inking job—ever!

Well, it finally happened! I knew you couldn't keep such a good character down...and even if it did take thirty years, *Batman*, YOU'VE MADE IT!

—ERIC KNIGHT, Mt. Vernon, N.Y.

(Such pointed words of praise falling upon our shoulders...it's as if Eric Knight-ed us!—Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

*The Batman* of the 1970's is here! With Denny O'Neil at the writing reins and Neal Adams at his inimitable artboard, "The Secret of the Waiting Graves" emerged as an old-fashioned, hard-core, dyed-in-the-wool classic! At long last the annoying *Batjunk* is gone, and with it the commercialized, exploited, over-exposed *Batman* of yesterday. *Robin* is finally away at college, leaving our nocturnal creature to once again work in the shadows, unhampered by a red-vested teenage compatriot. Kudos to Ye Ed for daring such a dramatic different look.

As a matter of fact, this fantastic New-Old Look actually supplies your writers' respective imaginations with an infinite number of new kigs to tap. For once, Bruce Wayne is able to suddenly appear in Mexico, with no reason other than a writer's whim to capture a distinct mood more authentically. After all, Mr. Wayne IS a millionaire playboy. Since he is not tied down by heavy subplots, Bruce is finally able to behave as any self-respecting playboy (or self-appointed crime-fighter) should.

Note: The new *Bat-car* introduced last issue should be recalled to the editorial "factory"—for keeps. *Batman* does not—I repeat: does NOT—need a snazzy auto. Let him rooftop-hop the way he used to.

—STEVE BEERY, Alma, Mich.

(And in an almost monotonous deluge, the accolades poured in—interrupted infrequently by a jarring note, as will follow.—Editor)

Dear Editor:

\*\*\*\*\*

I am a faithful reader of *Detective Comics* but I feel that issue 395, featuring Denny O'Neil's story, "The Secret of the Waiting Graves," with penciling by Neal Adams, was a disaster!

Now Denny O'Neil is one of the finest, if not the finest comics scripter writing today. Neal Adams' intricate panels have earned him the title, "Bernini of the comic magazines" (for instance, his baroque and justly touted circular progression composition in the fifth issue of the old *Deadman* series).

But in *Detective* 395, both scripting and artwork were far short of the discriminating standards associated with these two gentlemen. The plot was improbable, uninspired, and left too many questions unanswered.

Artwork by Adams was execrable. What has happened to his talent at creative layout? Perhaps he should take a vacation from work—pick up a newspaper and study panels by adventure cartoonists like Milton Caniff or Ken Overgard. Or maybe he should ask Joe Kubert for advice; rarely does Kubert undergo a slump in creativity.

—MARK EDWARDS, Urbana, Ill.

(And now back to the goodies...—Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

Every now and then a "classic" comics story comes along. In reading the "new" *Batman* adventure, "The Secret of the Waiting Graves," I never expected we'd have a classic so soon.

Even before I finished this tremendous story I was wondering who the writer was. This was an unusual adventure that saw Neal Adams presenting superb layout that made the story "move"—a must for a classic. The *Adams-Batman* IS an eerie and terrifying personality. No other artist has ever made him so dy-



namic in this respect. It's little wonder he was selected to do the new *Batman*. However, I am convinced that the true genius in giving *Batman* its overall visual appeal is the splendid inking of Dick Giordano. And as usual, I am always commenting on the art, when I started this piece complimenting the writer.

*Batman*, south of the border, made a fascinating excursion into the "unknown"! The writer's opening paragraph really set the mood of this unique and different type of story. Currently, it seems, "horror" type stories are the rage, yet in reading this story I was never really prepared for the chilling ending... *Batman* standing there with wind-blown cape, grimly witnessing the Muertos' ghastly death. Then the fitting finger-scribble of the death-date....!

Denny O'Neil. Writer. More!

—BILL J. WHITE, Columbia, Mo.

(When the distinguished editor of *Batmania* says it the way it is...that's the way it is!—Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

The *Batman* episode, "The Secret of the Waiting Graves," was more of a horror story than a detective adventure. Now, instead of "*Batman, the Costumed Crime-Fighter*," it's "*The Batman, the Nocturnal Avenger of Justice!*" Those spooky disappearances and reappearances *The Batman* performed on pages 2, 3, 5, 7, and 10 earned the *Masked Manhunter* the title of "the mysterious creature of the night...the dark enemy of crime and injustice"! He went light on his detective and fighting skills but really went all out with his acrobatic tactics. Dolores and Juan were a strange couple, and the "Secret of the Waiting Graves" was a *grave secret* that even I was awed at. Anyone who says the ending of the story was rushed has never seen a horror movie.

The *Robin* second-parter, "Drop Out—or Drop Dead," was an excellent change from a detective-horror adventure to a detective-modern-day episode. Dick Grayson never looked better when helping his secret alter ego, and his secret alter ego never fought better.

—CARLTON SLOAN, Chicago, Ill.

(Our apologies for taking so long to get around to Robin who did, after all, back up *Batman* in this memorable issue. The hit he made with the above critic was scored as an error by the next one.—Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

Re: "The Secret of the Waiting Graves"—

An eerie story, a ghostly mood...dark mystery all-pervading...no details, no trivial explanations; no wasted words. A story designed to work by artwork more than words, more than plot...for can words create the night as well as darkness?

Death...fear fights the bringer of fear...one figure alone, one lone initiate against nocturnal secrets surrounding him.

The reader left aghast...breathless. What a perfect story! What flawless artwork! What total mood! Surely it was all mood, intriguing, exciting, moving from the very first panel, never letting up for a second, forcing the reader on relentlessly, lingering long past the final panel. What an all-around masterpiece!

Which is more than I can say for the *Robin* story.

I would like to leave it at that, but the defect in that story was so obvious, and so often repeated, that

I feel I must bring it up, as someone is apparently unaware of it. The defect: the words that Frank Robbins stuffed into his characters' mouths. The story itself may have been interesting. I don't know, for I was too busy trying to decipher what the characters were saying.

In order for stories to be effective, they must at the very least be flowing enough to hold the readers' interest; especially in more complex stories such as "Drop Out—or Drop Dead." The words should serve to illuminate just what is happening, what the characters are doing, and why. Having to plow through such inanities as, "Don't fret your shaggy head, Jonah boy—our *whales* ain't gonna swallow 'em"—or "Their *beefs* may have been *legit*, but their *tactics* weren't," makes the story a burden to read. The reader must first figure out just what the character is saying, and then move on to integrate the development into what has gone before. Not very conducive to a flowing, unified feeling. Nor to good stories.

Nonetheless, this story, as all bad stories, will fade from memory probably overnight; while I will remember and read and reread "The Secret of the Waiting Graves" for many months to come.

—EDWARD BRODERICK, Arlington Hts., Ill.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

*Batman* is dead! Do you hear me? *Batman* is dead!

I know that shout seems morbid, but listen to the rest of it...

*Batman*, that super-noble, super-merciful, super-goody-good *Caped Cornball* is dead! But in his place, stands...THE BATMAN!

THE BATMAN! That dark avenger of wrongs, that merciless foe of all evil, that mysterious shadowy defender of Gotham City! Yes, *Batman* is gone but THE (shudder) BATMAN has taken his place!

Forgive the melodrama but believe it or not, I felt that way when I opened *Detective* #395. The enthusiasm really started last month when you announced Neal Adams would do this issue's story. The only thing I will say about the art is that Adams is the only artist on your staff who could draw THE BATMAN.

Denny O'Neil's story was one of the most well-planned I have ever read. I say well-planned because every possible element was utilized to give the story a feeling of mystery. The art, the dialogue, the captions, and the symbolism on the last two pages were arranged to weave an air of suspense.

The *Robin* story conclusion was very good. Even though I have complained about the type of foes *Robin* battles in his solo adventures, I sure did enjoy this particular story.

—JAMES HAGGENMILLER, Jersey City, N.J.

(For those of you who prefer LOC's short and sweet (or sour...or whatever) we've saved a choice one to wrap up this column.—Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

I'll tell you, Mr. S: You keep producing material like the *Batman* tale in *Detective* #395, and one of these days you're going to make it big as an editor. (Heh, heh!)

—ANTHONY KOWALIK, Harvey, Ill.

\*\*\*\*\*

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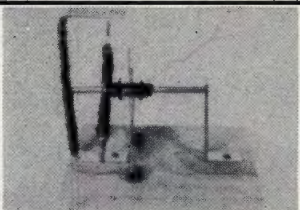
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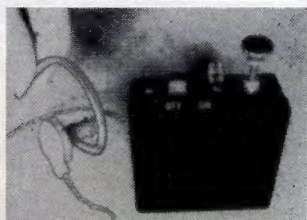
# Blast Off...

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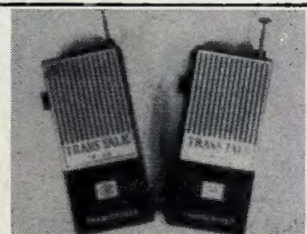
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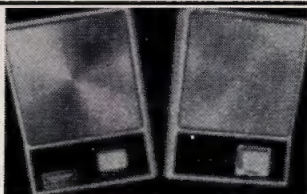
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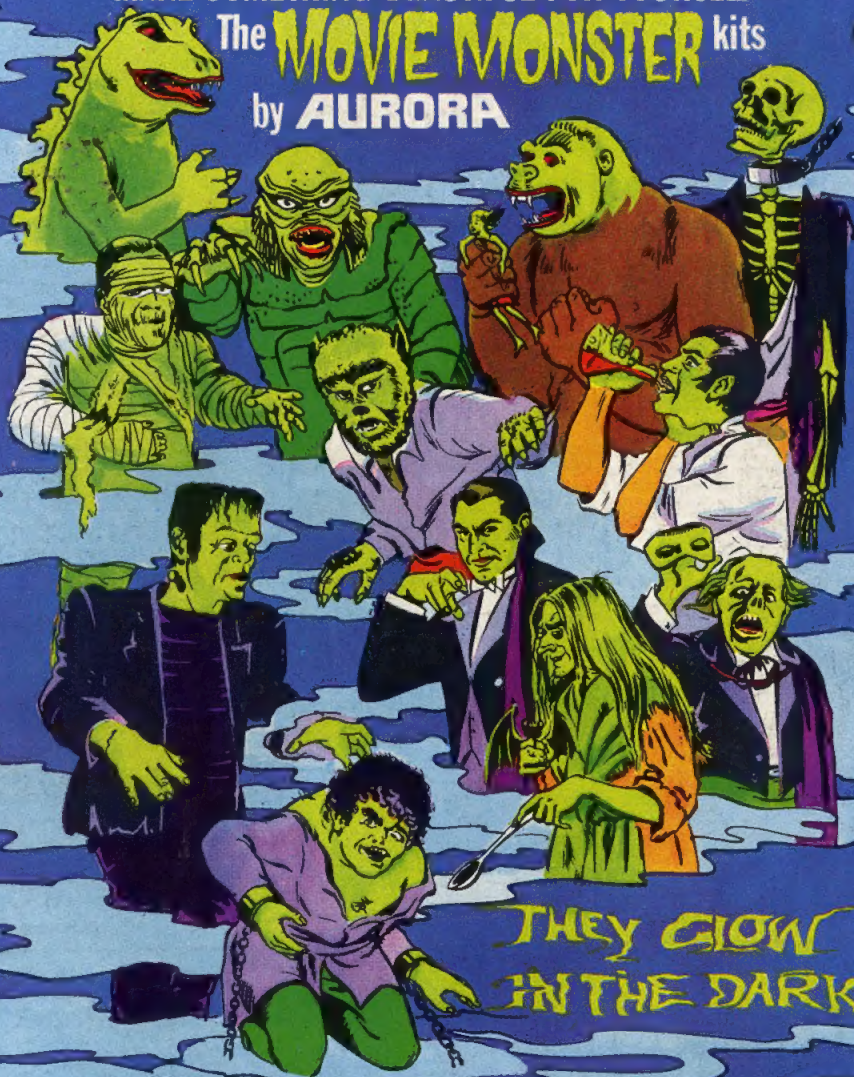
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